

Pacific Basin Area

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Fact Sheet

Purpose

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. Farmers and ranchers may receive financial and technical assistance to install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

Person Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to persons who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production.

Land Eligibility

Eligible land includes cropland; rangeland; pastureland; private, nonindustrial forestland; and other farm or ranch lands. Applicants must have uninterrupted control of the land for the contract period.

Selection Process

EQIP seeks to optimize environmental benefits. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will evaluate and rank applications based upon the environmental benefits to be achieved and the cost-effectiveness of the planned conservation practices.

Length of Contract

The minimum length of an EQIP contract is 1 year after the implementation of all practices. The maximum length is 10 years. EQIP is implemented through an EQIP plan of operations.

Contract Requirements

All conservation practices must meet NRCS technical standards and be maintained for the lifespan of the practice. A comprehensive nutrient management plan must be developed and implemented for confined livestock feeding operations.

Program Payments

Cost-sharing may pay up to 50% of the costs for eligible conservation practices. Incentive payments are cost shared at 100% and may be made for up to 3 years to encourage producers to adopt land management practices that they may not otherwise implement.

Limited resource producers or beginning farmers/ranchers may be eligible to receive up to 90% cost-share assistance.

Payment Limitations

An eligible producer may receive up to \$450,000 per individual from 2002 through 2007. Beginning October 1, 2002, no individual or entity with an average adjusted gross income of over \$2.5 million for the preceding 3 years may receive EQIP payments, unless 75% of that income is from farming, ranching, or forestry interests.

Application Process

Interested persons may obtain applications at any USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service field office or from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) local representative, or Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) office. Applications will be accepted throughout the year. The ranking and selecting of applications will occur periodically during designated times of the year.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Contact your local NRCS Field Office or SWCD Office for more information.

PACIFIC BASIN AREA – NRCS FIELD OFFICES

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American Samoa Field Office

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